

Opportunity to Object

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

Red River Ranger District

Gospel-Hump Wilderness Invasive Plant Management Project

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests are proposing the Gospel-Hump Wilderness Invasive Plant Management Project on the Red River Ranger District. The 200,500-acre project area includes all of the Gospel Hump Wilderness. It drains into both the Salmon and South Fork Clearwater Rivers, in Idaho County, Idaho.

The responsible official for this decision is Forest Supervisor Cheryl Probert. An Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Draft Decision Notice (DN) have been prepared that are based on the analyses conducted by an interdisciplinary team.

Both documents are available online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=45921>. A notice of document availability has been sent to those who submitted specific, written comments in response to the 30-day comment period that occurred during scoping for this project. Paper or electronic copies of the EA and DN are available upon request at the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Supervisor's Office, 903 3rd Street, Kamiah, Idaho 83536 or by contacting Carol Hennessey at 208-935-42703 or cahennessey@fs.fed.us.

In the Proposed Action, the Forest would treat up to 200 acres of invasive plant infested area per year manually (pulling, digging, etc.) or culturally (planting native plants), use herbicides to treat up to 1,275 acres per year in designated sites and 500 acres per year in and around dispersed areas, and introduce biological control agents on up to 20,000 acres over the life of the project. This alternative proposes an integrated weed management approach using all available methods (manual, cultural, herbicide, and biological control) in combination with adaptive management, and prevention/education to treat and reduce invasive plants within the project area.

The Gospel-Hump Wilderness Invasive Plant Management Project is subject to the objection process, and those individuals or entities who previously submitted comments during the 30-day comment period or other designated opportunity for public comment in accordance with 36 CFR 218.5(a) are eligible to file an objection. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project. Objections, including attachments, must be filed via mail, express delivery, or messenger service to Objection Reviewing Officer, USDA Forest Service, Northern Region, 26 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula, MT 59804; FAX to (406) 329-3411; email to appeals-northern-regional-office@fs.fed.us ; or by hand-delivery (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays) at the Northern Region office address above.

Objections must be submitted within 45 calendar days following the publication of this notice in the *Lewiston Tribune*. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely on dates or time-frame information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection.

The objection must contain the minimum content requirements specified in §218.8(d) and incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to §218.9. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

At a minimum an objection must include the follow (36 CFR 218.8(d)): (1) The objector's name and address, with a telephone number, if available; (2) a signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for Email may be filed with the objection); (3) when multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector (verification of the identity of the lead objector shall be provided upon request); (4) the name of the proposed project (i.e., Clear Creek Integrated Restoration), the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the name(s) of the National Forest(s) and/or Ranger District(s) on which the proposed project will be implemented; (5) a description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and (6) a statement that demonstrates connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection.

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